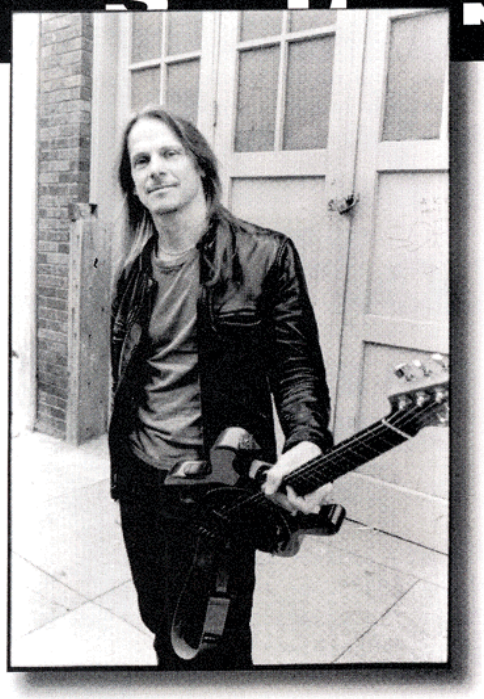

My Personal Picking Exercise

BY STEVE MORSE

WHILE STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY of Miami, I always made up exercises to try to keep up with all the great guitarists there. One of them, Stan Samole, heard me practicing this one and transcribed it for some of his students.

This arpeggio-based exercise consists entirely of triplets. I made it into a classical-sounding progression, so it wouldn't be as boring as playing a plain arpeggio up and down the neck. I'd been studying a lot of Spanish-style music with classical guitarist Juan Mercadel. Such arpeggiating is very difficult; go slowly to get every note clean. I know if I can flatpick this one accurately, I'm ready for anything else in my repertoire.

The Roman numerals indicate hand positions. If it's not obvious, pick down, up, down, up—regardless of how unnatural it may feel.

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